

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8
By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Frank M. Farris, Jr. upon
his many valuable contributions to the Watkins
Institute.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to pay
tribute to an exemplary public servant who has been a vital part of his community for many
years and who has contributed significantly to the growth and prosperity of Watkins Institute,
one of the finest continuing education institutions in this state; and

WHEREAS, Frank M. Farris, Jr. has been associated with Watkins Institute since 1919,
when as a fourteen-year-old lad, he rode his bicycle to Nashville to take typing classes at the
school; this long-standing association has been mutually beneficial for both parties; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Farris served with acumen, integrity and dedication as a Commissioner
of Watkins Institute from 1953-1996; he has also astutely served the school as a Board Member
and Chairman of the Board; and

WHEREAS, during the term of his exceptional leadership, Mr. Farris oversaw the
construction of the present Watkins Institute building, the introduction and incorporation of a
Board of Trustees, the development of volunteer advisory and support organizations,
accreditation of the College, and the continuous provision of quality educational programs
serving literally tens of thousands of Middle Tennesseans; and

24441797

24441797

000259

00025916

WHEREAS, the spirit of philanthropy, personal integrity, selfless service to the community and the education of its citizens and stewardship of the public trust began at Watkins Institute with its founder and benefactor, Samuel Watkins, in 1880; Mr. Farris has exemplified that compassionate spirit as a Commissioner of the school for over forty years and as a stellar Tennessean for over 91 years; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his tireless commitment to the worthy cause of continuing education in general and Watkins Institute in particular and in appreciation of his many estimable services to both the school and the Nashville community as a whole, the newly renovated Watkins Institute Building has been named in honor of Frank M. Farris, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, an accomplished attorney, Mr. Farris has been engaged in the practice of law as a partner in the Nashville firm of Farris, Warfield and Kanaday and its predecessors since 1939; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Farris has been a valuable, civic-minded member of the Nashville community for his entire life; and

WHEREAS, he has served with distinction as a member of the Vanderbilt University Board of Trust since 1979 and is a former chairman of the board of Oak Hill School; a devout Christian, he is an Elder of the First Presbyterian Church; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the Nashville Bar Association, Mr. Farris has been active in its pro bono program, and he served adroitly as a member of the Probate Committee in 1992; and

WHEREAS, he is a former member of the Executive Committee and Director Emeritus of Third National Bank; and

WHEREAS, for over 90 years, Frank M. Farris, Jr. had led the examined life with liberality and courage with his peerless dedication to selfless public service having redounded to the great benefit of both Watkins Institute and the greater Nashville community; and

WHEREAS, men of Mr. Farris' stature do not often walk among us, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Frank M. Farris, Jr. of Nashville upon his great philanthropy, vision and leadership in service of Watkins Institute and salute his ongoing commitment to providing quality continuing education for all citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.